

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SY-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /069 W

----- 107313

O P 291340Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4824

RUTAAMGMAMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE 487

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 00351

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH AND HUNTER

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CHANNELS OF CONTACT VIA BURUNDI

REF A KINSHASA 4305 AND 4378; B. STATE 124484; C. BUJUMBURA 345

D. KINSHASA 4413

PER RECOMMENDATION REF A, I MET TODAY WITH AGITO AMENA, WHOM

I HAVE KNOWN FOR HALF YEAR AS INTELLIGENT AND RELIABLE TEMPEL

REPRESENTATIVE IN BUJUMBURA. BECAUSE OF HIS CONNECTIONS IN KIN HASA, AS WELL AS HIS PAST SERVICE AS ZAIRIAN DIPLOMAT (HERE AND IN BANGUI), HE REMAINS CLOSE TO OFFICIAL ZAIRE COMMUNITY IN BUJUMBURA AND UVIRA. IN ADDITION, HE SEEMS TO HAVE WIDE RANGE OF PRIVATE CONTACTS WITH ZAIRIANS IN THIS AREA.

2. AGITO AMENA WAS RATHER IP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS AS CARRIED BY RADIO, AND HE IMMEDIATELY GRASPED PROBLEM WHEN I SAID THAT U.S. WAS NOW THINKING ABOUT WAYS IN WHICH IT MIGHT MOST QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY GET INTO TOUCH WITH KIDNAPPERS. I TOLD HIM
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THAT, AT THIS STAGE, WE WERE JUST THINKING ALOUD AND WERE NOT

SUGGESTING THAT ANYONE TAKE ACTION, BUT IT SEEMED THAT WE HAD TO GET A DIALOGUE UNDERWAY WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF PRP GROUP TO LEARN THEIR MINIMUM CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE OF STUDENTS, NOW THAT TANGOV HAD ENTIRELY REJECTED INITIAL PRP DEMANDS. TO DO THIS, WE WOULD HAVE TO GET THE MESSAGE TO THE BAND, FIND AN APPROPRIATE INTERMEDIARY, ESTABLISH A SAFE PLACE FOR NEGOTIATION, AND, ABOVE ALL, MAKE SURE THAT EVERY STEP UNDERTAKEN HAD THE FULL CONCURRENCE OF THE GOZ.

3. AGITO AMENA SAID THAT HIS LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT KABILA GROUP IS IN VERY BAD SHAPE. ONE OF THEIR "MAJORS" WHO CAME TO UVIRA AS "LIAISON OFFICER" HALF A YEAR AGO HAS NOW DEFECTED, AND HE REPORTS THAT GROUP IS SHORT OF MEDICAL CARE, CLOTHES, AND WEAPONS. ZAIRE ARMY UNITS ARE IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GROUP, TRYING TO URGE THEM TO ACCEPT MOBUTU OFFERS OF AMNESTY AND REINTEGRATION, BUT THIS MODUS VIVENDI

AT TIMES BREAKS DOWN AND RAIDS OCCUR ON BOTH SIDES. STILL, HE BELIEVES THAT THINGS HAVE BEEN VERY QUIET SINCE SMALL UPSURGE OF "REBEL" ACTIVITY (GOLD MINE ROBBERY, ETC) LAST MONTH.

4. AGITO AMENA MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN PLANNING TRIP TO UVIRA THIS AFTERNOON ANYWAY AND WOULD NOW RPT NOW INQUIRE INTO STATE OF AFFAIRS. DURING LAST TRIP THERE FEW DAYS AGO, HE HAD NOTICED INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY (PARA 6 REF D) AND HAD HEARD THAT ALL SENIOR OFFICERS OF SOUTH KIVU HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO BUKAVU NOR MEETING. HE WOULD ALSO THINK ABOUT POTENTIAL INTERMEDIARIES. I CAUTIONED HIM THAT WE WERE NOT ASKING HIM TO DO ANYTHING AND REPEATED THAT, IF WE DID ACT LATER, IT WOULD ONLY BE IN COORDINATION WITH GOZ.

5. AS FOR BUJUMBURA, AGITO AMENA KNEW OF RESIDENT ZAIRIANS WHO HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH KABILA FOUR YEARS AGO, AND HE COULD INQUIRE ABOUT THEIR CURRENT WHEREABOUTS. TO HIS QUERY ABOUT ZAIRE EMBASSY ACTIVITY HERE, I SAID WE HAD IMPRESSION IT WAS INFORMED BUT SO FAR ON SIDELINES.

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6. CONCERNING QUESTION PARA 3 REF OON WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED (REF C) THAT MICOMBERO IS AREADY TO HAVE BURUNDI USED AS NEUTRAL

MEETING GROUND PROVIDED GOZ (AND IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES, PERHAPS ALSO GOT) CONCURS. WE THINK SAME WOULD BE TRUE WITH REGARD TO ASSURANCES OF SAFE-CONDUCT FOR ANY PRP REPRESENTATIVE.

MARK

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